1: Rosen E-5 (1901-1902) 1924 SK6 Choroti SK6

These casings are not sewn together, but consist of the seamless skin of the tail or leg of some animal. At first I took it as a matter of course that these casings had been put on solely for the purpose of strengthening the bow at some point where it looked like breaking. In order to make certain, I cut loose a casing of this kind, which was on the bow numbered 03. 3. 253, but I could not discover the least crack, knot, or other defect pointing to any necessity for reinforcing the bow at that point. But, between the casing and the stave, I did find some flattened cakes of excrement from some herbivorous animal. Whether these excrements had *purposely* been placed inside the casing, is of course impossible to say, but if they were put there on purpose, then they undoubtedly possessed some magical significance. In such case the idea must have been that they would bring good luck in the hunting of the species of game whose excrement had been placed inside the casing (see p. 181). As among the Indians there is a very wide-spread notion that whoever possesses the skin of some animal also possesses a certain mastery over the spirit of that animal,[1] it is not impossible that the skin casing itself is of a magic character. Professor Emil Holmgren, who, at my request, kindly carried out a microscopical examination of the excrement flakes as well as of the piece of skin, considers that the character of the latter points to its having been a part of the tail of an animal of the goat, sheep, or *cat* tribe, and that the colour and grouping of the hairs are indicative of the *last-mentioned* category.[2] That parts of animals' bodies are used by the Chaco Indians as hunting amulets, is, among other things, evident from a statement by Nordenskiöld upon the subject of hunting among the Ashluslay, who are neighbours of the Choroti: »In hunting, the Ashluslay make use of various amulets. If, in the always indispensable caraguatá bag, one carries the head of a tortoise, then one is able to stalk close up to the deer, without putting them to flight. When hunting ostriches, it is a good thing to bring along pieces of skin taken from the breast of ostriches which one has killed.«[3] As to the other two bows, I have refrained from cutting off the skin casings, and therefore cannot say whether the latter conceal any cracks or not. On the staves of the bows Nos. 03. 3. 252 there are, however, to be seen, close to the casing, several deep scorings, running

[1] Karsten (4), p. 90.
[2] Opinion dated August 24th, 1921. Rockefeller collection of Manuscripts, Volume 1921, »H».
[3] Nordenskiöld (13), p. 49.